

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07486 271725Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3418

INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7486

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, SS, MA, AL, MO

SUBJECT: SPANISH-MOROCCAN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SAHARA

1. I SPOKE BRIEFLY MORNING OCTOBER 27 WITH MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY CARRO MARTINEZ WHO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE CONVERSATIONS LATE LAST WEEK WITH FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI. HIS COMMENTS ON THE PRESENT SPANISH POLICY CLOSELY PARALLELED THOSE MADE TO ME LAST WEEK BY MINISTER SOLIS. HE WAS RELUCTANT TO TALK ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE CONVERSATIONS OR THE OUTLINES OF AN AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED HIS OPTIMISM THAT SPAIN AND MOROCCO WOULD REACH AGREEMENT AS IT IS CLEARLY IN THEIR INTERESTS TO DO SO. HE BELIEVED HIS WOULD BE EVIDENT WHEN THE MOROCCAN NEGOTIATORS RETURNED TO MADRID SOON. (I UNDERSTAND FROM A SEPARATE SOURCE THAT LARAKI HAD PLANNED TO RETURN OCTOBER 28, BUT WILL NOW DELAY FOR A FEW DAYS PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF FRANCO'S IMPENDING DEATH.)

2. CARRO MARTINIZ SAID THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT NO TIME BE LOST IN ARRIVING AT AN AGREEMENT IF THE GRAVE
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PAGE 02 MADRID 07486 271725Z

CONSEQUENCES, WHICH WOULD ARISE IF THE "GREEN MARCH"

CONTINUED, WERE TO BE AVOIDED. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES
COULD SPAIN LET THE MARCHERS ENTER SAHARAN TERRITORY.

3. WITH REGARD TO ALGERIA, CARRO MARTINEZ TOOK THE POSI-
TION THAT ALGERIA HAD NEVER CLEARLY DEFINED ITS POSITION
ON THE SAHARA. AT ONE TIME, THERE SEEMED TO BE AN AGREE-
MENT WITH MOROCCO AND THEN THAT VANISHED. WHATEVER
ALGERIA'S REAL ATTITUDE MAY BE, AND HE DID NOT THINK
ALGERIA WOULD TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST MOROCCO, THE PRESENT
PROBLEM WAS ONE BETWEEN SPAIN AND MOROCCO AND NOT BETWEEN
SPAIN AND ALGERIA. ALGERIA MIGHT HAVE A PROBLEM WITH
MOROCCO, BUT THAT WAS A SEPARATE MATTER. CARRO MARTINEZ
DID, HOWEVER, EXPRESS SOME CONCERN REGARDING THE F.
POLISARIO ATTITUDE WHICH WAS ORCHESTRATED BY ALGERIA.

4. CARRO MARTINEZ HAD LITTLE OR NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT
MAURITANIA, ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED THAT THE MAURITANIAN
ANGLE HAD TO BE BORNE IN MIND.

5. COMMENT: WE KNOW ABOUT SOLIS' PREFERENCE FOR THE SAHARA BE-
COMING AN AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF MOROCCO. HOWEVER, NO INFOR-
MATION IS AVAILABLE TO US AS TO THE OUTLINES OF A POSSIBLE
AGREEMENT. ONLY A VERY FEW TOP-LEVEL SPANISH OFFICIAL ARE
INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATION AND THEY ARE TIGHT-LIPPED.
THEY ARE ALSO IN A HURRY TO GET THE SAHARA SETTLED BE-
FORE THE "GREEN MARCH" PROCEEDS MUCH FURTHER AND BEFORE
THE POST-FRANCO ERA GETS UNDER WAY.

6. THE ONE THING THAT IS CLEAR IS THAT CORTINA'S
POLICY HAS BEEN TOTALLY DISCARDED AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT
THIS DID NOT OCCUR WITHOUT SOMEWHAT OF A ROW BETWEEN
HIM AND ARIAS. END COMMENT.
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